

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 13221 071149Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 296

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 13221

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJECT: EVERYBODY JUMPING ON MOI BAND WAGON

REF: NAIROBI 13073

1. FOLLOWING UP ON PLEDGE OF LOYALTY TO MOI BY ENTIRE CABINET (REFTEL), THERE HAS BEEN GROUND SWELL OF SUPPORT FOR MOI TO BE KANU'S ONLY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AT UPCOMING DELEGATES CONFERENCE SET FOR OCTOBER 6. KANU BRANCHES OF NAIROBI AND MOMBASA, AS WELL AS SMALLER ONES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, ASSISTANT MINISTERS, UNION OF KENYAN CIVIL SERVANTS, AND MAJOR WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION HAVE ALL PROCLAIMED TOTAL SUPPORT FOR MOI. LOCAL PRESS PLAYED UP STORY THAT BOTH DR. MUNGA AND MINSTATE KOINANGE SUPPORT MOI CANDIDACY (THIS TENDS CONFIRM EARLIER REPORT BY SOURCE CLOSE TO FAMILY GROUPING THAT FAMILY WOULD NOT CONTEST MOI NOMINATION). MEETING OF MP'S SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 11 "TO PLEDGE THEIR LOYALTY" TO PRESIDENT MOI. MEDIA SEPTEMBER 6 HEADLINED THAT LUO UNION LEADER (ODINGA FACTION) PAUL MBOYA (PRESENTLY UNDER CHALLENGE FOR LUO LEADERSHIP) HAS BACKED MOI NOMINATION. LATTER IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING AS MOI, AND HIS PROTEGE IN NYANZA PROVINCE, CHELUGET, HAVE BEEN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR SAND-BAGGING LUO ATTEMPTS TO REHABILITATE ODINGA.

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2. ACCORDING TO KANU ACTING SEC. GEN. MATANO (MIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT) OCTOBER 6 CONFERENCE WILL DEAL SOLELY WITH NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER SPECULATION THAT 1974 PARTY CONSTITUTION WOULD BE RATIFIED AND A NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTED.

3. COMMENT: A BANDWAGON PHENOMENON IS APPARENTLY DEVELOPING IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT MOI'S CANDIDACY TO HEAD KANU AND THEREBY BE SELECTED AS THE NEXT DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF KENYA. WITH SUCH BROAD-BASED SUPPORT EMERGING, INCLUDING PLEDGES FROM CERTAIN WOULD-BE CHALLENGERS AS KOINANGE AND MUNGAI, IT NOW APPEARS THAT MOI WILL BE THE SOLE PARTY NOMINEE AT THE UPCOMING DELEGATES CONFERENCE. THIS SEEMS TO CONFIRM THE ASSERTION OF FINANCE MINISTER KIBAKI, WHICH I REPORTED EARLIER (NAIROBI 12935) THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE KANU BRANCHES HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO SUPPORT MOI'S NOMINATION. WITH MOI FORMALLY A UNANIMOUS CHOICE FOR THE PRESIDENCY SPECULATION IS NOW BEGINNING ON HIS CHOICE OF VICE PRESIDENT.
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